(c) whether Government are also aware of invasion of Junk Foods with very poor and low nutritional value which have invaded the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Wheat from America

1398. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the import of one million tonnes of wheat from U.S., India would be paying a sum of Rs. 60 crores as shipping charges as against around Rs. 146 crores as the wheat price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in 'Patriot', of 11th June, 1988 under the caption "Leak of wheat import decision to cost India crores of ruppes extra";

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The estimated F.O.B. cost of one million tonnes of wheat (contracted in April, 1988) comes to about Rs. 146.32 crores and the total freight for this quantity would be Rs. 60 crores or thereabout, depending on freight levels that would prevail from time to time till despatch of the last ship.

(c) to (e) Government have seen the report referred to. Freight level depends upon various factors such as supply and demand, etc. which keep changing from time to time. Import of one million tonnes of wheat by India was contracted in April, 1988, whereas the international freight market started recovering towards end of 1987.

Prices of Vanaspati

1399. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vanaspati manufacturers give any undertaking to Government regarding stability of the prices; if so, the details of prices agreed upon and prevailing;

(b) whether Vanaspati manufacturers are getting imported edible oil from the STC (State Trading Corporation) at uniform price to maintain uniformity of prices throughout the country;

(c) whether sales tax paid by Vanaspati manufacturers on the sale of the imported oil by the STC is reimbursed by Government agencies; and

(d) if so, the amount of reimbursed during the years 1985, 1986 & 1987 alongwith the details about state-wise reimbursement allocation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) A voluntary price arrangement has been in effect from the 26th of August, 1987 on the basis of an assurance from the Vanaspati Manufacturers Association and the Indian Vanaspati Producers Association according to which the maximum consumer price of a 15 kg. tin of Vanaspati is Rs. 335/- plus local taxes.

(b) The current STC issue price for imported edible oils to the Vanaspati industry is Rs. 15,000 PMT for the regular allocations and Rs. 19,000/- PMT for the commercial allocations.

(c) STC reimburses sales tax to vanaspati units on the sale of imported oils subject to certain conditions-